

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FOR ARA, D, P AND L ONLY

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION CASE: CONVERSATION WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER CUBILLOS

1. ON HIS RETURN FROM BOGOTA, CUBILLOS TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD
LIKE TO INFORM ME ABOUT HIS TALK WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY
AND OTHER MATTERS. AS HE FOUND HIS WEEKLY SCHEDULE VERY CROWDED,
HE SUGGESTED THAT HE COME TO THE RESIDENCE FOR A DRINK ON SATURDAY
NOON, AUGUST 12. CUBILLOS MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. A. THE GOC WAS FIRMLY RESOLVED TO GO THROUGH WITH THE LETELIER
CASE TO THE VERY END. PINOCHET AND THE EXECUTIVE WILL NOT MAKE
ANY DECISIONS AND THE FINAL RULING ON EXTRADITION WILL BE HANDED
DOWN BY THE COURT AND NOT BY THE EXECUTIVE.

B. AS THE EXTRADITION REQUEST IS COVERED BY AN INTERNATIONAL
TREATY, HE AS FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TO ISSUE THE DETENTION ORDER
AGAINST THE THREE DEFENDENTS. HE SAID CONTRERAS WAS VERY DISTURBED
BECAUSE HE HAD NEVER EXPECTED THAT PINOCHET WOULD GO SO FAR
AS TO PLACE HIM UNDER HOUSE ARREST. AS A RESULT, CONTRERAS AND
HIS DEFENSE LAWYER, MIRANDA CARRINGTON, WHO IS KNOWN FOR HIS
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SECRET

PAGE 02 SANTIA 06080 141920Z

VICIOUSNESS AND NEO-NAZI BELIEFS, WILL START A MUDSLINGING CAMPAIGN
WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE CUBILLOS AS WELL AS MYSELF AND OTHERS.

C. HE HAS RECEIVED SOME NEW INFORMATION ABOUT THE CASE,
AND HE IS NOW CONVINCED THAT IT IS A LOT MORE COMPLICATED THAN
HE HAD ORIGINALLY THOUGHT, WITH ADDITIONAL INTRIGUES AND INTERNATIONAL
INVOLVEMENT.

3. CUBILLOS SAID THAT HE HAD GIVEN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THE ASSEMBLED GENERALS AND ADMIRALS A FULL RUNDOWN ON HIS DISCUSSION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY, AND THAT HE WAS IN AGREEMENT

WITH VAKY'S POINT THAT THE SINCERITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE CHILEAN LEGAL SYSTEM WOULD BE CLOSELY WATCHED. IT WAS PERSONALLY DIS-APPOINTING TO HIM TO LEARN FROM HIS TALK WITH VAKY THAT THE GOC HAD SO LITTLE CREDIBILITY IN AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION AS TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COURTS AND HE SAID HE KNEW THAT A SPECIAL EFFORT HAD TO BE MADE TO CORRECT THE SITUATION.

4. HE SAID HE CAME AWAY FROM THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING WITH RENEWED FAITH THAT PINOCHET HAD NOTHING TO HIDE AND WAS READY TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY ATTEMPTED BLACKMAIL BY CONTRERAS AGAINST HIM. HE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS SPECIFIC POINT WITH PINOCHET AND FOUND HIM NOT TO BE WORRIED ABOUT IT. IN CUBILLOS' VIEW, PINOCHET'S EXPERT HANDLING OF THE LEIGH FIRING AND HIS APPARENT UNCONCERN ABOUT ANY DAMAGING IMPACT OF THE LETELIER CASE ON HIM PERSONALLY GAVE HIM THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOVERNMENT NOW WAS STRONGER THAN BEFORE.

5. I ASKED CUBILLOS WHY ALL GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS HAD BEEN INVITED TO THE MEETING AND CUBILLOS SAID MATTER-OF-FACTLY, "TO SHOW THEM THAT EVERYTHING WAS ALL RIGHT."

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SECRET

PAGE 03 SANTIA 06080 141920Z

6. COMMENT: DELIBERATELY OR NOT, CUBILLOS NOW FOLLOWS THE PARTY LINE BY DARKLY HINTING OF INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACIES, I.E., CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE LETELIER CASE. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT SERGIO MIRANDA CARRINGTON, CONTRERAS' LAWYER, WAS NOW IN THE UNITED STATES -- IN HIS VIEW POSSIBLY TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FROM FORMER FRIENDS OF CONTRERAS IN U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.
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